

Subject: GRINEV, Mikhailo of Rome, Italy

Source: ~~W-1234~~ ACCESSORY 154

Date: 16 March 1966

1. Source called Subject on the phone (831-1359) and arranged a meeting in a cafe in Rome on 28 Feb. 1966. At this meeting Subject acted more reserved than previously in Milan, he stuck strictly to the party line, and seemed uneasy when questioned about Kosygin or Brezhnev or the Soviet-Chinese conflict. Twice during the conversation he stated: "I don't want to state my personal opinion at this time, but would rather prefer to say what is generally spoken". During the meeting Source presented himself as an Italian.
2. Subject is an electronics engineer, lives in Moscow where he was born and grew up. He is married and wife lives with him in Rome.
3. On the topic of the nationalities policy of the Soviet Union, Subject gave standard replies, stating that all republics are independent and equal. Each nation has the right to enrich its language and culture. On the question of Russification in the non-Russian republics, Subject did not agree that this is being done forcefully, instead considers this a natural process. When asked about the conception of "drawing together of nations" he said that the 23rd Party Congress will explain this in more detail. Source pressured Subject on Russification, and he became confused and could not answer.
4. According to Subject the trial of Sinyavsky and Daniel were not in any way political, and had no bearing what so ever on the freedom of expression in the USSR. He stated that the trial was exaggerated in the West, while in the USSR it is a common occurrence, with no one paying much attention to such matters. He continued by attacking Sinyavsky and Daniel as ungrateful individuals who were raised in the USSR, obtained their education there, but still wrote anti-Soviet books. When asked how

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this was possible, Subject replied that due to the influence of Western tourists, and reading of "Western propaganda" both Sinyavsky and Daniel were impaired. In reply to question if they managed to influence their associates with their writings, Subject replied that this was possible, but later reversed himself completely.

5. Subject compared the KGB to the counter-espionage organizations of other nations, but said that he knew little about their operations otherwise. On this topic spoke with a definite coolness, trying to make it appear as if this was an everyday topic of discussion in the USSR. Rejected the statement that KGB murdered Rebet and Bandera, when asked what they stood for, he answered "they fought for an independent Ukraine". He continued by saying that "the next thing you know, they will accuse the Soviet secret police of the murder of KRAVCHENKO". Adding that Kravchenko did not write the book "I Choose Freedom" but that it was written by "Western enemies of the USSR" and Kravchenko only signed his name to it so that he could collect royalties.

6. The reason for the dispute among the younger and older generations in the USSR is one of basically educational reasons. The younger generation is better educated and does not agree with the older on the ways of building Communism. Both generations however adhere to Marxism.

7. Subject expressed the opinion that a "thaw" in East-West relations, and the cultural exchange that resulted from it, was conditioned by the change of attitude of the Western world and not by greater freedom after Stalin's death. Under Stalin there was enough freedom and when Soviet individuals could not travel this was only because the West was too hostile to permit such travel. After Stalin's death however, the West, not the East had changed and Soviet people could start travelling.

8. Subject stated that the USSR sells arms to Vietnam, but this is strictly a business deal, adding that unlike America, there are no Soviet

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which in North Vietnam. Source called this argument nonsense, saying that there are Soviet troops in Poland, Hungary, East Germany. When told that they are there as a result of a treaty between the governments involved, Source replied that this is the case in Vietnam.

9. Subject agreed that agriculture in the USSR is not on the level of the USA, but matters are constantly improving. When asked if it would be profitable to discuss the collective farms, as was done in Poland, he then agreed, saying that Poland was at a different stage in development when collectivization was started, as compared to the USSR. Although there have been some problems in agriculture, whereby a peasant can buy land and work it himself.

10. Upon parting Subject was met outside the cafe by an Italian national who went with him.

11. A future meeting was agreed upon in principle without a fixed date or place. Source will arrange it by phone.